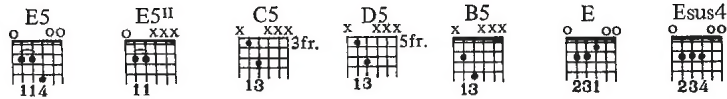


# Cat's In The Cradle

Words and Music by  
Harry Chapin and Sandy Chapin

All gtrs.  
tune down 1/2 step:  
⑥ = E♭ ③ = G♭  
⑤ = A♭ ② = B♭  
④ = D♭ ① = E♭



Moderately ♩ = 78

Intro

Gtr. I (acous. 12-stg.)  
E5

\*Riff A (Gtr. II)

mp

let ring

P

(end Riff A)

\*Six stg. elec. capoed at 7fr. TAB numbers indicate  
actual fret numbers; 7fr. is thought of as an open stg.

N.C.

1. My

Gtr. I

Gtr. II

(Gtr. II out)

1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses  
E5 G5 Gsus2 G5 Asus2 E Esus4 E

child ar-rived just the oth-er day; came to the world in the u-su-al way. But there were

2.3. See additional lyrics

Rhy. Fig. 1 (Gtr. I) (end Rhy. Fig. 1)

let ring let ring let ring let ring

E5 G5 Gsus2 G5 Asus2 E Esus4 E

planes to catch and bills to pay. He learned to walk while I was a-way. He was

let ring let ring let ring let ring

[Play 1st & 2nd times only]

D5 D5/C# Bm7 Bm/A Gsus2 D/F# E

talk-in' fore I knew it. And as he grew he said, "I'm gon-na be like you, Dad. You

Rhy. Fig. 2 (end Rhy. Fig. 2)

let ring

Gsus2 D/F# E Esus4 E

know I'm gon-na be like you." And the

\*Chorus voc.  
doubled an octave lower.



Coda Gtr. III (elec.)

E5<sup>II</sup>

C5

D5

B5

then, \_\_\_\_\_

yeah.”

Gtr. I

First system of musical notation for Gtr. I. The staff shows a melodic line starting with a half note E5, followed by a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note B5. Below the staff are four fretboard diagrams for a guitar in E major (three sharps). The fret numbers are: 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0.

E5<sup>II</sup>

w/Fill 1  
C5

D5

B5

Second system of musical notation for Gtr. I. The staff shows a melodic line starting with a half note E5, followed by a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note B5. Below the staff are four fretboard diagrams for a guitar in E major. The fret numbers are: 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0.

E5<sup>II</sup>

dim.

I've

Third system of musical notation for Gtr. I. The staff shows a melodic line starting with a half note E5, followed by a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note B5. Below the staff are four fretboard diagrams for a guitar in E major. The fret numbers are: 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0.

Fill 1 (two gtrs.)

Fdbk.

Fdbk.

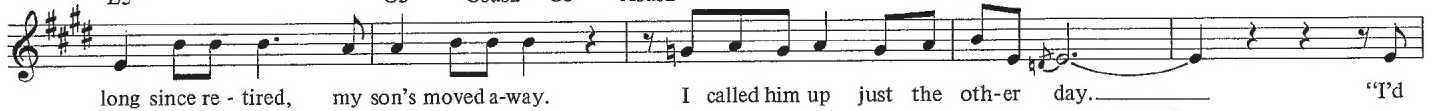
Fill 1 (two gtrs.) musical notation and fretboard diagrams. The staff shows a melodic line starting with a half note E5, followed by a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note B5. Below the staff are four fretboard diagrams for a guitar in E major. The fret numbers are: 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0; 0, 1, 2, 0.

4th Verse  
w/Rhy. Fig. 1  
E5

Gtr. I  
E

Esus4

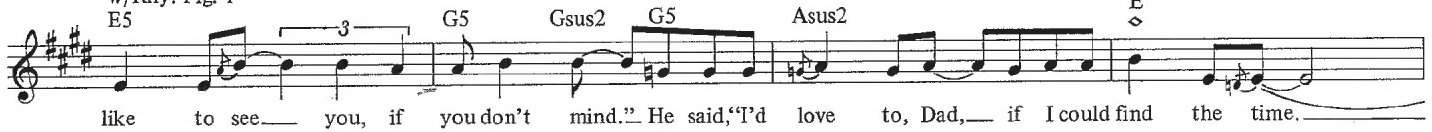
G5 Gsus2 G5 Asus2



w/Rhy. Fig. 1  
E5

G5 Gsus2 G5 Asus2

Gtr. I  
E



Esus4

w/Rhy. Fig. 2  
D5 D5/C#

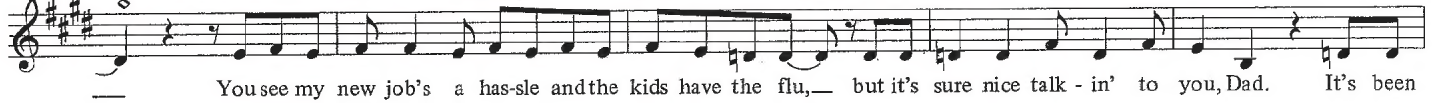
Bm7

Bm/A

Gsus2

D/F#

E



Gsus2

D/F#

E

D5

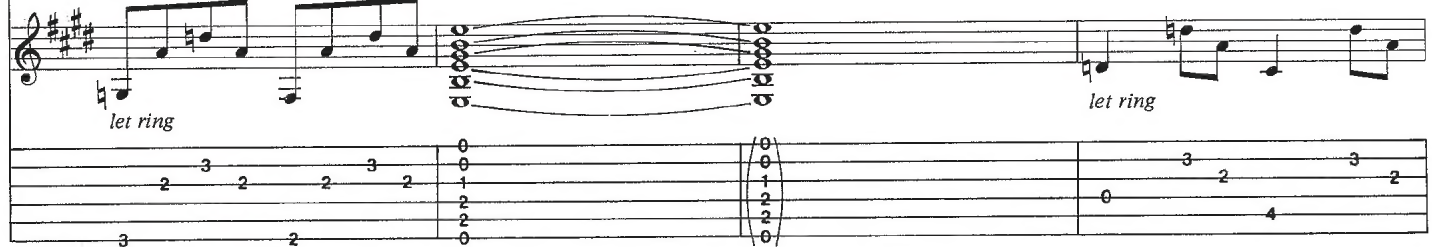
D5/C#



Gtr. I

let ring

let ring



Bm7

Bm/A

Gsus2

D/F#

E



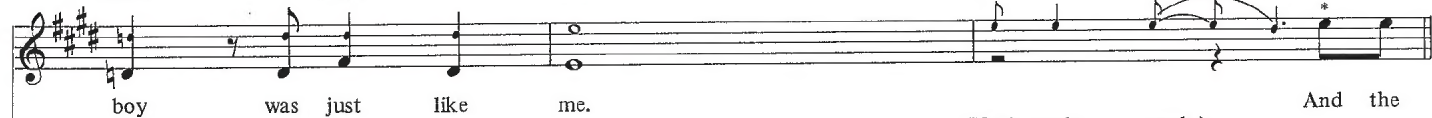
Gtr. III

E

(cont. in notation)

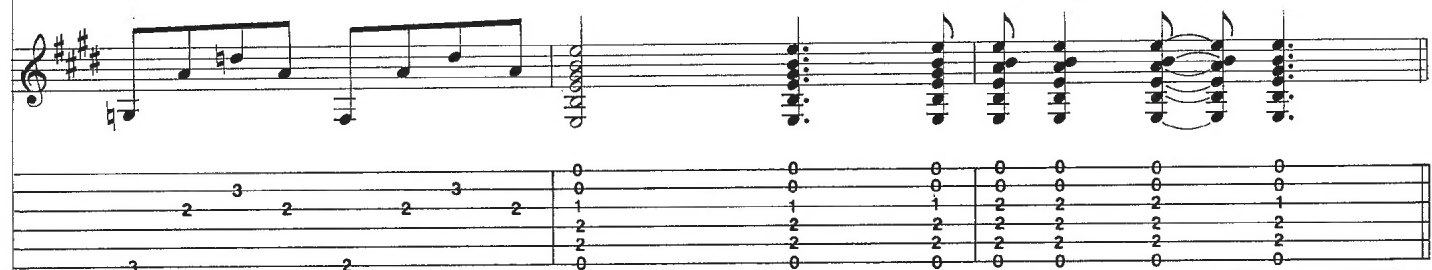
Gsus2

D/F#



(Yeah, yeah, yeah.)

And the



\*Chorus vocal is tripled  
(sung one octave higher  
and one octave lower).



Chorus  
w/Rhy. Fig. 3  
E5

D Dsus4 D G5 A Asus4 A

cat's in the cra-dle and the sil-ver spoon, lit-tle boy blue and the man 'n the moon.

Gtr. III

P.M.--4 P.M.--4 P.M.--4 P.M.--4 P.M.--4

E5 D Dsus4 D Gsus2 D/F# E Gsus2 D/F#

"When you com-in' home, Son?" "I don't know when. We'll get to-gether then. You know we'll have a good time

(cont. in slashes)

P.M.--4 P.M.--4

1. E Esus4<sub>3</sub> 3 3 3 2. E

Gtrs. I & III Gtrs. I & III

then." And the then."

dim. Gtr. II N.C. P

mp let ring rit.

Additional Lyrics

2. Well, my son turned ten just the other day.  
He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad. Come on, let's play.  
Could you teach me to throw?" I said, "Not today.  
I got a lot to do." He said, "That's okay."  
And he walked away and he smiled and he said, "You know,  
I'm gonna be like him, yeah.  
You know I'm gonna be like him." (To Chorus)
3. Well, he came from college just the other day,  
So much like a man I just had to say,  
"I'm proud of you. Could you sit for a while?"  
He shook his head and he said with a smile,  
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys.  
See you later. Can I have them please?" (To Chorus)